This A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the legislative, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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GET OUT THE VOTE!
ELECT A BETTER
CONGRESS!

WHOLE NO. 1852 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1946 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 36, NO. 41

## Green's Address Highlights

*Chicago.—Following are some of the highlights of the address of AFL President William Green to the opening session of the AFL convention here:*

The war could not have been won except for the devoted service given by that army of production. I make answer without reservation to those who have indulged in criticism and complaint, those who have found fault regardless of the near-perfect record that has been made and the transportation lines of the nation. Truly here was located the arsenal of democracy.

### Opposes Controls

It is more than a year since VJ-Day and we are disturbed because of the confused situation that has developed, the tendency on the part of governments to still exercise control over our economic life and to delegate even collective bargaining to the rear and clothe a governmental agency with authority to veto the collective bargaining agreements reached around the conference table between employers and employes.

We resent that, we protest against it.

### No Limitation in Production

We hear some complaints from some unthinking persons and individuals that labor is not measuring up to the economic requirements of the nation—that we are limiting production. All of that is untrue. The productive capacity of the individual worker has constantly increased. As new means and new methods are developed out of the laboratories and the scientific investigations of the nation, and as these new methods are applied, industry and the worker have become more and more efficient. Fewer workers are producing more.

### Asks End of Wage-Price Controls

On the question of price control we have been passing through a situation that has subjected us to very trying experiences. Fairly decent governmental control was exercised by the government up to June 30, when the first governmental control act was in operation. Then the Congress refused to continue the act in its original form. I am sure that it was then understood for the changed conditions that ad come about, tut examination of the act itself and the record leads to the conclusion that it was better at least than the act they finally passed. Instead of the act now in operation being a price control law, I would classify it as a profit promoting measure.

Labor has suffered as a result of it already. We are suffering now. We believe that some new way must be found, and speedily, to stop the profiteering, continued control of rent and some other items comparable to that, we believe the time has come when price control, along with wage control, should be lifted by the government.

### Hails Miners' Welfare Fund

I wish we had the facts of the mining industry. The development there has been notable. We are happy to know that they have a leader and leaders who stood up and uncompromisingly fought for the creation of a national welfare fund for the injured miners of the nation.

That objective will be the objective now of organizations affiliated with the AFL. We must establish in this nation security in every condition of life—old age, illness and infirmity—and in addition we must provide hospitalization and nursing facilities and care for every man and woman in the United States, for human life is above material welfare in this nation.

### Pledges Housing Aid

Our Building and Construction Trades Department is making its contribution in a most wonderful way toward the development of housing. The veterans who came home are crying for homes. Many of them cannot afford to buy homes, but they want to and pay their rent every month.

These veterans who offered their lives on the battlefields of Europe ought to be accorded a place where they can live back home in their own homelland in decency and in comfort.

Our building trades people are meeting this issue.

### Need Greater Social Security

We are thinking about the promotion of social security legislation. We contend that our efforts in the state legislatures and in the Federal Congress toward the enactment of modern day social security legislation. If there is any one thing that serve to create a better social order, it is to establish a feeling of security in the hearts and minds of the masses of people. We must enter the sunset of life feeling secure they will adjust themselves to every change in life in a better way than if they face it with a feeling of distress and uncertainty.

### Labor Opposed to "Isms"

The delegates at this convention, with one voice, anti-Red will proclaim their uncompromising opposition to Communism, Fascism, Nazism or any other way, open or disguised in any form whatsoever. The seven million, one hundred thousand members they represent in this convention will stand as a bulwark in support of the American way of life, democracy, liberty, justice, freedom and liberty as a common heritage to be maintained and preserved at any cost. The American Federation of Labor has passed from the point where it can be regarded as a new institution. It is now a part of the institutional life of our nation. It is an institution in itself. The architects of this movement planned well when they erected upon it a superstructure that has endured and met every test in the changing economic life of our nation. It is our trust to preserve and maintain it.

### Raps Foes of Labor

Labor belongs to the worker himself. He can give it or withheld it at will, and while they might profit to a closed shop employer, who can, under the organic law of the nation, work with nonunion workers against your will. But they are going to acquaint the sovereign citizens of America who belong to our organized movement and we are going to ask them to march to the polls as one body, just as they strike as one, and vote as one, and make these lawmakers stay at home.

Our answer to that is that we are keeping a record of those who vote against us, a record of those who sponsor legislation against us and who have supported it and voted for it, and we are going to acquaint the sovereign citizens of America who belong to our organized movement and we are going to ask them to march to the polls as one body, just as they strike as one, and vote as one, and make these lawmakers stay at home.

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# Green Calls For End of Wage and Price Controls In Militant Address Keynoting AFL Convention

## Labor Trades Urged to Fight All Enemies of Closed Shops

Chicago—Lashing out vigorously at labor's foes, who have been attempting to outlaw closed shop agreements through state legislatures, AFL President William Green told delegates to the convention of the AFL Union Label Trades Department to be on constant guard against such tactics.

"The people of our Union Label Trades Department have done a splendid job," he told the delegates, "but you must be on the constant alert together. Don't be weary in well doing, but by bit, to whittle down the gains which American workers have achieved by vigorous struggle over a long period of years."

Delegates to the convention loudly applauded Mr. Green's announcement that AFL members kept their no strike war pledge by 99 percent.

"Labor today is playing a vital part in the reconversion picture of our Nation," he told the delegates, and "our Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button will take on increasing significance as we march toward our postwar goals."

Mr. Green paid special tribute to the important work being done throughout the country by the women's auxiliaries of the Union Label Trades.

## Women Veterans Reach For Benefits Of Readjustment and Training

Nearly two-thirds of the women veterans questioned in a survey of Veterans' Administration had applied for VA benefits within four months after their discharge, VA said today.

Readjustment allowance and education and training benefits were most popular with the women. Only a few had applied for loans for a home or business.

The survey covered 1,800 former enlisted members of the WAC and WAVES who were discharged during February, 1946, and were questioned by VA four months later.

Half the women had applied for readjustment allowances, and 45 percent had received some payments. Sixty-seven had applied for the allowance for more than 10 weeks.

This was considerably higher than the rate shown in a similar survey of men discharged last December and studied four months later. Only 9 percent of the men had received more than 10 payments in the first four months of their civilian life.

Eleven percent of the women surveyed were enrolled in education or training under the GI Bill, and 15 percent definitely planned to enroll in the near future. Women showed slightly more interest in full-time school work and less in on-the-job training than the men surveyed.

The difficulty of gaining recognition as veterans was one of the biggest problems met by women in a similar survey of ex-women, VA found. "No one knows anything about the woman veteran," one report quoted.

VA found that the women veterans were slower to take jobs than men veterans and changed jobs more often when first out of service. Twenty-two percent already had given up their first jobs. One out of four who remained on the first job planned to give it up, either for another position or to attend school.

Most of the women did not want to return to their prewar jobs. They wanted to use skills acquired in the service, but only two out of five who were working when the survey was taken actually were using these skills.

When it came to making use of service-acquired skills in civilian life, the women who had been trained in professional or semi-professional work had the most luck, and women in technical jobs like radio operators or aerographers had the least opportunity. They found civilian employers still reserved that kind of work for men.

Others found salaries too low in the civilian equivalents of their service assignments.

Only one out of three women studied had been able to carry out the plans she had made while still in service. Most letter comments were on the housing shortage, which in many cases had interfered with their plans for marriage.

Lack of suitable jobs and lack of opportunity for education or training interfered with plans of women vets. Financial difficulties played only a small part, but family problems affected the women more than the men.

Women surveyed averaged 25 years of age and had an average of two years of active service. Half the women were high school graduates, 9 percent college graduates, while another 20 percent had taken some college work.

Forty-four were married, most of them during their enlistment or after their discharge.

## Nimitz Praises Labor Highly For Loyal Service to Nation

Washington.—Highest praise for the loyalty and patriotism displayed labor during the recent war is expressed by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in a special article written for the latest issue of the American Federationist, official magazine of the AFL.

"During the war we of the Navy asked for ships, ships and more ships," Admiral Nimitz writes. "Ten men of the home front built them for us. We asked for tools; every tool we got put us on a superior skill, but also for superior weight and quality of equipment.

"During the long war years countless lives were saved because of your hard work. Vital equipment—a spare part, a gun, an extra shell—got the right place at the right time often meant the difference between life and death. Your task, I know, was hard and hard and exhausting. But you knew we were depending on you. And you did nobly by us all.

"For this we thank you, and for this we give you the traditional Navy 'well done.'"

In his Federationist article the admiral then makes a plea for sacrifices to build the "peace" for which we willingly made in order to win the war.

Pointing out that conflict is a sign of health in a democracy and that the validity of a nation is strangled when men and women do conform in a single-minded pattern," Admiral Nimitz emphasizes the distinction between conflict and chaos.

"We are called on to save our way of life. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, we can do this only in the same way we won the the war—by hard work—and thereby avoid the same moral precipice country on the face of the earth.

"A prosperous world is a peaceful world, and if American prosperity is to last it must be shared."

The great question of our times, writes Admiral Nimitz in the A. F. of L. official publication, is whether man can be economically secure and the same time free."

"Many have decided that this is possible," he states. "But we here in America say emphatically that it is possible. We say that it is the very essence of real democracy."

Admiral Nimitz concludes his article, which is entitled "Labor, We Thank You," with the following words:

"If you of labor were to ask me how you might best serve your country in the months and years to come, I tell you:

"Approach the problems of peace in the same splendid spirit of cooperation that you observed in war.

"Put yourself in the other man's shoes—try to understand his problems.

"Be honest and just not only in your demands but also in your work.

"A democracy is only as strong as its citizens. You are the citizens of America. What you make of yourselves, you also make of your country."

## U. S. Tax Receipts Hit New Record For Three Months

Washington, D. C.—More taxes were collected by the Federal Government in the first three months of this fiscal year than in any corresponding months in history.

Federal expenditures during those three months, ending September 30, also climbed to a new high, topping those of any fiscal quarter except one during 1941, when the nation was laying out billions for defense.

Receipts for the July-through-September period were $9,450,000,000, which would be an annual rate of $37,800,000,000. That would be $1,200,000,000 below the budget estimate for the year ending next June 30, but officials hope heavy tax receipts next spring will close the gap.

Spending for the quarter was $9,231,000,000, at an annual rate of $37,-924,000,000. That would be $2,200,000,000 below the budget estimate for the year, but the first quarter did not include any of the $3,400,000,000 GI terminal leave pay and other commitments.

The Government never took in more than $5,688,000,000 a year in the 1930s, nor did it spend more than $8,707,000,000.

## Real Jobs, Not Special Interests, Offer Best Security, Bradley Says

Chicago.—Returning veterans will find greater job security and honest wages if labor organizes as workers rather than attempting to cash in on their war service by allying themselves with special interests, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, administrator of veterans affairs, told the American Federation of Labor convention.

Paying tribute to the important part American labor took in both the production and battle lines, Gen. Bradley told the delegates:

"Labor represents both the worker and the fighter. One out of every five American wage-earners today is a veteran of this country's wars. The young man with the union card in his pocket and a service discharge button in his lapel knows it is primarily as a worker rather than as a veteran that he must make his way."

"While in service, he suffered wartime losses in wages, skills and training. As a veteran he has earned the chance to help offset those losses, but ultimately it is as a worker that he will find job security and honest reward for services rendered.

Touching upon national welfare and influences of special interests, Gen. Bradley said:

"I speak first as an American—and then as administrator of veterans affairs. I speak with strong personal conviction when I say that anyone—whether in the government, industry, or labor—whether he be the spokesman of veterans, or any other group of American citizens—is morally guilty of betrayal when he puts special interests before the welfare of this nation.

"I refuse to believe that any American citizen would knowingly endanger the country he has fought to defend. There are some veterans who might be deceived by the lure of easy money. There are some who might be misled by the promise of something for nothing.

"If we want veterans to think as citizens, we must prove to them that special privilege is nothing more than a fraudulent substitute for honest opportunity. There is nothing more menacing to the future of the American veteran than the phony champion who bids him think first of himself—to the exclusion of all others. If we abandon the veteran to this selfish claptrap, if we permit the veteran to barter his opportunities as a citizen for a government handout—we must share the responsibility for selling him down the river.

"More than ever before, these men who have risked their lives for our security must now be granted job security that will enable them to live as self-respecting, self-reliant, self-supporting citizens in a free and independent America. Where we were once compelled to defend democracy with the strength of these young men, we must now show that democracy can work for the enrichment of their lives.

"For democratic government, to survive, must grant to its people continuing opportunities for greater economic security.

"We must prove to veterans—and to all Americans—that political democracy is the forerunner of economic democracy. And we must prove that as citizens in this democracy, veterans will find the opportunities to work, earn and prosper more than has ever before been possible in any other nation.

The general told the delegates it has been proven that a ceiling is essential to the honest conduct of on-the-job training.

## Editors of Labor Press Hit Advertising Field 'Rackets'

Chicago.—Delegates to the annual convention of the International Labor Press of America, representing close to 200 labor papers, in session here vigorously condemned the "boilerroom racket" in the advertising field.

Delegates to the convention called attention to a rapidly developing malpractice under which advertising promoters located in New York and other large cities telephone business men in scattered cities and say:

"We're representing the American Federation of Labor and would like an advertisement from your firm for our publications."

Such representations, the Labor Press delegates were assured, are strictly fictional and have no official support of any division of the American Federation of Labor.

One of the highlights of the editors' convention here was a testimonial dinner in honor of E. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer of the group for 26 years and who declined re-election.

The convention reelected Matthew Woll as president and elected Lewis Herald secretary-treasurer, succeeding Frank B. Powers of Washington, D. C., who resigned from second to first vice president. Other vice presidents are Frank X. Martel, Detroit; Thomas J. Donnelly, Detroit; Al Hagnauer, Denver; Ruth Taylor, New York; Stanton Dann, Mobile; W. B. Arnold, Madison, Wis., and Freeman M. Saltus, Worcester, Mass.

## Rising Prices and Declining Income Cited As Major Problems of Labor

St. Louis.—The greatest "common peacetime fight in which all of the American people must be united is the fight against rising prices," declared Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, told the delegates to the Urban League at a dinner devoted to discussion of labor's stake in the Four Freedoms.

Warning that rising prices and falling income presents a situation which is gradually choking the nation's postwar economy, Mr. Shishkin said:

"While Negro workers have made substantial gains during the war, these gains are now being lost and signs are multiplying every month that Negro workers are suffering disproportionately from downgrading, part-time work and partial as well as total unemployment. The average single decline has been in the type of work and standards of compensation available to Negroes.

"While all workers have been affected by the nationwide shift to the disadvantage of labor generally in the skilled classifications, while the pay of white male wage earners declined about 6 percent between 1945 and 1946, the earnings of Negro workers declined 22 percent.

"The problem is serious but not a critical one as long as high levels of employment and purchasing power is to assurance of continuing stability in the economic activity beyond the next few months.

"There are already strong indications that many strategic reserves in item are being priced out of the mass market.

"The country is bound to be curtailment of production, not because of shortages of materials or men but because of shortages of purchasing power needed to support the high volume of industry.

Discussing wage and income differentials based on race and color, Mr. Shishkin said the delegates:

"Organized labor is keenly aware today of the crucial fact that the wage differential, and therefore an income differential in many types of employment, based on nothing but race and color. That fact concerns organized labor regardless of race and will determine the future living standards of all workers.

"Heretofore have been made in eliminating wage differentials based on race have been achieved by organized labor that is why all workers must make common cause to safeguard and advance their wage and living standards through the ranks of organized labor."

### SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

The widows and approximately 90,000 children of husbands and fathers who died as a result of World War II service are receiving monthly compensation benefits, Veterans Administration reported.

Compensation for each widow is set at $50 monthly and $18 for one child, plus $15.60 for any additional children.

## Leader of AFL Sounds Battle Call Against Labor Foes

Chicago.—Sounding the keynote of the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor, President William Green told the delegates labor demands the end of wage and price control, is necessarily on the march for higher wages; will vigorously resist every kind of foreign "isms"; will battle for improved social security and is convinced that the key to antiinflation is full production.

Mr. Green further implemented his address with a firm prediction that other unions will follow the lead of the United Mine Workers in obtaining agreements with employers providing for welfare funds, will wage an uniting campaign to offset "labor-hating reactionaries" and communistic agents and push the AFL campaign to provide homes for veterans "who offered their lives in battle and are entitled to a home on the soil they defended."

Reviewing the great sacrifices made by labor during the war period and the hardships encountered through the period of reconversion as the result of returning veterans, Mr. Green told the convention:

"I hope and trust that the shortage of materials will be overcome and that we soon will be able to launch the housing program on the scale for which we have hoped. Many of the setbacks we have experienced so far are the direct failure by the Congress to meet the requirements of the situation.

"Now we are going to fight for higher wages, because we cannot meet consistently more efficient service without sharing in the rewards of that efficiency. We have not reached the limit. There are a lot of people complaining about high wages and insisting that this is contributing to inflation.

"That charge is false. First of all, you must place in the hands of the consuming public the purchasing power with which to buy the goods that industry produces and if there is an unbalance between the purchasing power and production we will continue to have the same conditions we are experiencing now.

"The only way to create the market is through the payment of wages sufficient to provide the purchasing and purchasing power needed to buy the goods industry produces.

"We are determined to mobilize our economic strength and to force from unwilling employers, if necessary that wage increase which we are entitled under the modern development of industry."

The delegates applauded loudly as President Green, touching again on the war record of American workers, declared that the no strike pledge had been kept by AFL unions "99.9 percent."

Assailing federal efforts to continue wartime controls over labor in peace time, Mr. Green told the convention:

"It is more than a year since V-J Day and we are disturbed because of the confused situation that has developed, the tendency on the part of the Government to still exercise the control over our economic life and to relegate even collective bargaining to the rear and to clothe a governmental agency with authority to veto the collective bargaining agreements reached around the conference table between employers and employes.

"We resent that, we protest against it and here in this convention we will register our protest against governmental control of our economic life."

There was no question about how the convention felt on this issue. The delegates applauded these remarks long and loudly.

Regarding inflation, President Green declared:

"We are students of economics enough to know that there is but one remedy for inflation and that is a great will and that is full production. And what is needed is not so much price control as the centering on production."

Striking out a reactionary groups which have been attempting, both in the national Congress and state legislatures to hamstring labor and wipe out the gains made by workers over a long period of years, Mr. Green said:

"We are going to drive hard and successfully against these labor haters. In some states they are even attempting to enact bills denying us the right to deal freely with employers.

"After all, the worker's labor belongs to himself.' He can give it or withhold it at will, and while they might profit to a closed shop employer who can't make you, under the organic law of the nation, work with nonunion workers against your will. They tried it in Florida. They are trying it in California and Louisiana and now they are trying it in Nebraska.

"But we are keeping a record of those who vote against us and we are going to acquaint the sovereign citizens of America who belong to organized labor with this record and will ask them to march to the polls as one body and to vote to make these lawmakers to stay at home."

Declaring that he saw little, if any, difference between communism, nazism, fascism, Mr. Green told the delegates:

"The philosophy of each provides for dictatorship and the subjugation of the individual to the will of the state. Each denies the right of free and unfettered or Government administration."

"Summing it up, we of the American Federation of Labor stand steadfast and immovable against communism and totalitarianism. We cherish the blessing of freedom and democracy. We are unalterably opposed to those who seek to utilize any branch of organized labor for the purpose of imposing upon our Nation a form of foreign conceived ideology, totally unsuited to our American way of life. We call upon the workers everywhere who believe as we of the American Federation of Labor do on this issue to come with us and stand with us in defense of Americanism and against communism and totalitarianism."

## Veterans Still Need GI Bill Loans

A $56,665,000 increase in GI loans is noted in the Veterans Administration report for the week ending Sept. 7. GI loans have risen to approximately $1¼ billion.

VA's report revealed that 304,964 exservicemen and women have negotiated home, farm and business loans totaling $1,485,907,012.

Home loans, representing more than 87 percent of the total, numbered 266,741 and amounted to $1,303,209,819. Business loans, constituting 9 percent of the total, numbered 27,184 and totaled $81,566,938. Farm loans, accounting for about 4 percent, numbered 10,428 and totaled $35,230,255.

The report disclosed that 2,436 loans were repaid in full on which the VA guaranty was $5,865,111. Of this figure, 1,956 were home loans on which the VA commitment was $4,-681,780; 322 were business loans guaranteed for $761,822, and 119 were farm loans, guaranteed for $105,809.

Loans on which VA paid claims to lenders to date—and here for the week ending Sept. 7 to bring the total to 212. Business loans led this list with 174 defaulted loans on which VA paid $249; 27 were defaulted home loans on which the VA totaled $22,400, and 11 were farm loans on which $6,-370 was paid.

## MIDDLE-AGED NOW BEING DENIED EMPLOYMENT

Baltimore, Md.—The forgotten man of 1946 may become the forgotten army of 1947, according to Ken Johnson, Under-Secretary of Labor, in a speech made here recently.

He referred to workers beyond middle age, who, he complained, are being discriminated against in employment.

## Vets In Hospitals Increase 29 Percent

There has been a 29 percent increase since V-J day in the number of veteran patients in its hospitals and homes and in other hospitals under contract, Veterans Administration announced.

The total on Sept. 12 was 104,619 patients, compared with 81,081 on V-J day.

VA said the biggest increase occurred among World War II veterans in the neuropsychiatric classification. The number of such patients rose from 10,238 to 24,437, an increase of 14,199 persons.

The number of World War II veterans receiving medical care for service-connected disabilities rose from 11,350 to 17,476, a rise of 51 percent.

The smallest gain reported was in the number of veterans of other wars and of peacetime service receiving medical attention. They increased from 59,032 to 59,369, a gain of two-thirds of one percent.

## LEE ELECTED SUCCESSOR TO FITZPATRICK IN CHICAGO

Chicago.—William Lee, head of the Bakery Drivers' Union and vice president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, was unanimously elected president as successor to John Fitzpatrick, veteran labor leader, last night.

The nomination of Mr. Lee, who was unopposed, followed a tribute to Mr. Fitzpatrick by Robert Olander, secretary of the federation.

A resolution of sympathy was added to the list of tributes paid to the delegates to the meeting who stood for a moment in silent prayer in tribute to a beloved leader.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor covering all the legislative, judicial, and federal offices and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

**GET OUT THE VOTE!
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CONGRESS!**

## Padway Warns AFL of Grave Threat In States' Anti-Labor Legislation

Chicago.—Stern warning that American labor faces a grave challenge in efforts of reactionaries to impose new curbs on workers, even to the extent of outlawing strikes, was sounded before the American Federation of Labor Convention by Joseph A. Padway, AFL general counsel.

At the close of his address, punctuated by vigorous applause, the delegates rose as one man in a stirring ovation to the legal expert who for years has carried through the courts labor's far-flung and successful battles against restrictive legislation which he described as "nothing short of involuntary servitude."

In a sharply-worded attack on efforts of employers, courts and even State governors to hamstring union labor, second only to that of AFL President William Green, Mr. Padway told the delegates:

"Much of this legislation has been sponsored by people who are so-called liberals. They pose as friends of labor, but the bills which they have introduced are far from friendly to labor and were designed to strip labor of its most sacred rights.

"In the most recent session of Congress, 160 bills aimed against labor were introduced. The Ramspeck, our legislative adviser, told me recently that never, in any session of Congress, has he seen so many anti-labor measures.

"This is an alarming situation. I am alarmed particularly at the efforts of courts and governors to deprive labor of its right to strike. There is no law in our land which says that a worker cannot lay down his tools in protest against unfair standards and try to improve his situation. That is basic. It is our American way of life. It is our heritage and will not be surrendered.

"Donald R. Richberg, one of the so-called liberals, recently told the National Petroleum convention that a free country could not continue under monopoly by labor. What is labor monopoly, and why is labor being challenged in various sections of the country because it tries, through collective bargaining, to obtain better living standards, security and better service for the workers?"

Reviewing the long struggle of labor in scattered sections of the Nation to defend its rights and organize, Mr. Padway told the convention:

"The United States Supreme Court has ruled that injunctions against strikes are illegal. Yet we walk into court when the issue is raised and find judges and governors waiving all this aside. I am amazed at the effrontery of courts which seek to outlaw labor of its basic rights after these have been upheld by the Supreme Court.

"Employers who sought to chain labor and who were defeated in our national Congress turned to State Legislatures. They didn't like the injunction on Federal judges by Congress, and the judges didn't like it when Congress passed other legislation, but they took it at face value and since then we know had little trouble with them. I refer to the Norris-LaGuardia Act, one of the finest pieces of labor legislation this Nation has ever seen.

"In a number of States, anti-labor legislation has been passed, and in others it is being pressed vigorously. Florida, Arkansas and South Dakota are cited in this citizens' initiative now Nebraska is attempting to pass similar bills. The people who support these measures would like to outlaw the closed shop, would even impose regulations over our internal affairs, our dues and the right to pay strike benefits."

Mr. Padway particularly attacked such Federal legislation as the Hobbs and Case bills, the Lea bill and the Hatch-Ball-Burton measure, and the Norton bill, which he branded also as strikebreaking "anti-labor."

AFL President William Green, in a stirring tribute to Mr. Padway and his comprehensive presentation of labor's legislative problems, told the convention that the AFL legal counsel's observations placed a new value on the educational program of the AFL and urged each delegate to study carefully the printed record of their legal counsel's analysis of the legislative picture.

## Labor Lauded by Patterson For Record Set Up in War

Chicago.—Addressing the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor here, Secretary of War Patterson declared that the wholehearted cooperation of workers, will ever again risk war with the United States after having observed the unity of American workers and the nation's armed forces during the last conflict.

The vital contribution of American labor is a matter of record. No history of the war can be written that does not devote many chapters to the unparalleled output of war materials that was made by our workers," he told the delegates.

"No effort in this country will succeed unless it has the support of organized labor. Labor has not failed the nation in any war. It is made up of patriotic citizens who are fully aware of what citizenship in this country means, in responsibility as well as rights. We in the army know that we can count on you as organized labor to do your part. We welcome labor support in preserving the liberty that is so dear to us all."

Secretary Patterson told the delegates the prime objective of the nation today is the prevention of war and citizen support of American labor is the surest way to attain it.

"It is plain enough that the mere resolutions of our people to have lasting peace is not enough. If peace is to be a reality rather than a product of the present day and age that resolution is the most effective guaranty of peace that can be devised. No foreign power, or combination of powers, will go to war with us or will follow policies that involve the risk of war with us, if they look us over and conclude that their prospects of success are not good."

Discussing most recent developments in weapons and planes, the Secretary told the delegates:

"The recent records set by planes in nonstop flights of more than 10,000 miles will be history in a matter of months. A guided missile with a range far greater than the German long-range rockets, is also a probability in a matter of months. If war should come again we may be certain that in speed, range and power of weapons it will make the war just finished look like a fight with old-time muzzle-loaders."

Mr. Patterson emphatically denied any foundation for press reports in part indicating that the army desired to take command of the civilian economy.

### CEMENT MIXER DRIVERS WIN WAGE INCREASES

Birmingham, Ala.—Three companies in this city have increased their wages of employees working under the jurisdiction of the Teamsters, Sloss-Sheffield Company increased their cement mixer drivers' wages 10 cents an hour. The same increase also applied to workers at the Birmingham Sand and Cement Company, both agreements having the approval of the Wage Stabilization Board. The unarmored-armed Birmingham Warehouse Corporation also increased their Teamster employes by 12 cents an hour over-all. All agreements were signed with Teamsters and Chauffeurs Local 612.

### LADIES TO BE OMITTED?

Chicago, Ill.—A request has been presented to the International Ladies Handbag Luggage Belt and Novelty Workers Union for permit to change its name. The new name suggested is the International Ladies Luggage and Novelty Workers Union, with the omission of the word—ladies!

## Delegates Cheer Resignations of 2 WSB Members

Chicago.—One of the highlights of the 65th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was the announcement of President William Green that the resignations of members of the Wage Stabilization Board resigned—a decision which the AFL leader hoped would "mean the end" of both board, the ailing-child for which he had urged repeatedly.

Delegates cheered loudly when Mr. Green told the convention:

"What I am going to tell you now will be accepted with a feeling of deep appreciation. I am sure. I am able to announce confidentially that I have the two industrial members of the Wage Stabilization Board are tendering their resignations and are quitting that agency. I was a little reluctant to make that announcement because I thought it would make the representatives of the Steel and International Union feel badly. They were the two members who wrestled so long about a year of the contract negotiated through collective bargaining by the representatives of the Seafarers Union and their employers on the Pacific Coast.

"I called upon them to retain membership when I asked them to do it. Now we are happy that they have, and we are pleased to know this afternoon that they are quitting the Wage Stabilization Board.

"We hope that will mean not only their elimination from public life, but that it will mean the end of the Wage Stabilization Board as well."

## *Text of Truman's Message To Convention Delegates*

*Chicago.—The text of President Truman's message to the American Federation of Labor Convention here, declaring the AFL officers and members were among the chief custodians of American Democracy, follows:*

I very much regret that I cannot be with you on this most auspicious occasion, the Sixty-fifth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor. This convention is of deep significance because the officers and members of the AFL are among the chief custodians of American democracy.

This enduring trusteeship has brought a long record of gains for those who labor. Many of these gains are measurable in economic terms, in better wages and working conditions, in improved living standards and greater security. Beyond these tangible benefits, which have been felt in millions of homes throughout the land, are other contributions, equally vital to the welfare of a democracy—the growth of social consciousness and respect for human values that is the true symbol of freedom.

But in offering congratulations to the American Federation of Labor my chief desire is to look ahead, to the immediate tasks and responsibilities that lie before you. This is a great moment in history and it is no accident that the numbers and leaders of organized labor now have such a decisive part to play—a long record of continuing service has earned them that solemn right.

Moreover, this obligation is laid upon you at a time when not only the welfare and security of the American people but the peace of the world may be at stake.

To me at least, the part that organized labor must play is definite and clear. Now, more than ever, organized labor must speak for and act in behalf of all who labor. You must demonstrate, as your did during the war, that the goals of organized labor are identical with the goals of our democratic nation.

Today, no less than in wartime, our most compelling need is full, sustained production. Our demonstrated capacity holds out the promise of secure abundance for America's wage and salaried workers, as well as for our farmers and business and professional people. But to reach that goal we must call on all of our resources in materials and men and we shall need the full cooperation of industry, labor and government.

By definition this goal precludes the payment of substandard wages, just as it precludes inflationary prices which seat away real purchasing power. It precludes oppressive child labor and discrimination against any group regardless of race, race, color or creed.

There are those who doubt labor's motives and question labor's aims. Now, as always, the answer to that challenge must come from within the ranks of labor. I am confident that the Delegates to the great convention will be eager to reply.

Congratulations, and best wishes for a most successful convention.

## *Spaatz Pays Warm Tribute To Labor's Aid In Victory*

Chicago.—High tribute to the powerful contribution made by American workers to the winning of the war was expressed by Gen. Carl Spaatz, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, before the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"Labor won the war," he told the delegates, "there came overseas an unbroken flow of weapons and supplies, produced by workers of matchless skill, muscles and brains. The American spirit sustained us in battle. It saved the cause of democracy; it gave the sinews of life to the United Nations. That spirit we want to know you were then on the job, sharing in our victories. We want you to let them to feel your presence in every instrument, in every ton of war supplies. All of us fought for victory."

The United States, Gen. Spaatz told the delegates, must never again be caught in a war unready, and he applauded by another nation will peace."

## Truman Hopeful to Halt Decline Of Workers' Purchasing Power

Washington, D. C.—President Truman expressed grave fears that wages will decline still further in terms of purchasing power, and pledged that the Government will take every step to avert such a trend.

Speaking on a wide variety of issues confronting the administration, the President declared the Government will "do its best to keep prices down" in the black.

Mr. Truman reminded of his previous estimate that this fiscal year, which ends June 30, would see a deficit of $1,000,000,000. But since 1945 expenses have been cut by $2,100,000,000.

One of the highlights of Mr. Truman's press conference was a statement indicating that the army desired to take command of the civilian economy.

This report aroused a dual appeal to labor and industry to ease up on wage and price increase demands "or everybody's going to get hurt."

Emphasizing the unfortunate position in which the American housewife finds herself today, Mr. Steelman's report said that real wages have dropped about one sixth in the last year. He said a married man with three dependents, for example, finds that $100 today will buy only what was worth only a little more than $80 in things he buys.

"This downward trend in real wages should be reversed," Steelman said.

The Truman-Steelman plan to halt the decline, the President said, to keep prices from going up, but is limited to its goals in dealing with this situation.

However, the President told newsmen, he does not feel that new price control legislation is required at this time.

The report of Mr. Steelman, he said, shows that "we are driving steadily toward peacetime production."

Mr. Steelman's report was the first he has made since he took on the reconversion job. It contained a request appeal to both business and labor to "cooperate in their requests upon each other."

To business, Mr. Steelman said, "Abandon the idea that you can get ahead of some of the businessmen who are acting to hold prices down wherever possible."

His message to labor said:

"Labor must support strongly the labor leaders who are working toward industrial peace and not pushing for excessive wage increases which might precipitate a wage-price spiral."

Mr. Steelman's report called upon farmers to maintain their high level of production, for abundant food supply at reasonable prices.

With reference to the general public, recognizing the scarcity housing, Mr. Steelman said:

"Public resistance to higher prices, increased saving and self-denial in the cases of goods which are not yet plentiful can be a tremendously effective weapon to keep prices in line."

### DALLAS BUILDING TRADES AWARDED INCREASED PAY

Dallas, Tex.—Approximately 8,000 building trades workers have received increases of 6½ to 12½ cents an hour when the 21 crafts of the Dallas Building Trades Council were awarded a 1-year contract signed by the Associated General Contractors. This new contract will bring carpenters, painters, general building laborers, motor mixers and teamsters, to see the enemy "knocking at our gates." Such a situation, he declared, can be prevented only by means of a strong air force.

"Industry today," he said, "is now being kept up to the capacity demanded by national security. Meanwhile, the country's defense was being reduced in three categories: modern aircraft on hand; manufacturing capacity and trained personnel."

Referring to modern warfare, in which "civilians and troops" alike, he said, "Science has changed the whole face of warfare. Long-range bombers and treasonable production, Gen. Spaatz told the delegates:

"We know now that potential strength is not enough. The time for build-up after hostilities start, is gone forever. Lastly, we know we have the sinews of strength. Our national backbone is our long assembly line manned by the highly skilled men and most patriotic workmen in the world. That assembly line licked Germany and Japan and can lick the problems of peace. Keep America strong. That is the only road to

### PAY BOOSTS, IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN ALABAMA

Mobile, Ala.—Local Union 991 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers recently announced the signing of a standard city pick-up and delivery contract with the Gulf City Terminal and Storage Company of this city. The agreement grants substantial wage increases to employees and improved working conditions.

## Truman Sees Full Production Key to Major Labor Problems

## *Googe Tells Convention of Big Southern Gains*

Chicago.—Tremendous gains scored by the American Federation of Labor in its drive to add 1,000,000 members in 12 Southern States within a year were reported to the AFL Convention by George L. Googe, director of the southern campaign.

Reviewing the drive up to this time, Mr. Googe told the convention that 614 new charters have been granted to local unions and more than 180,000 members have joined the ranks of the AFL.

The campaign, he said, has faced and is overcoming the traditional southern opposition to trade unionism, but despite difficulties placed in the paths of organizers, more than 400,000 Negro workers have become union members.

"Our campaign is based on a distinct understanding," he told the delegates, "that there will be no discrimination among workers based on race, color or creed. We in the South want for our workers just as high a pay scale as in any other part of our nation.

"We resent the type of misrepresentation made in Congress about our southern labor. More and more the tendency is spreading throughout the South to keep the reactionaries—the enemies of low-cost home, and to elect liberals who understand the problems faced by the workingman."

Mr. Googe told the delegates that the southern workers are up against three types of employers—the intelligent who recognize the value of cooperation with unions, those who will deal with unions only if they see no other recourse, and those who "under the circumstances will accept collective bargaining."

Mr. Googe recited in detail, State by State and city by city, the gains registered by the AFL unions throughout the South since the opening of the southern campaign. New contracts have been negotiated, wages have been increased and working conditions have been improved generally.

He recited to the convention a long list of locals in scattered cities, covering every branch of the AFL, which have scored important gains.

## *LABOR, USA*

*The fourteenth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:*

### We Are Reducing Strikes,

By JOHN P. FREY
President of the AFL Metal Trades Dept.

This is good news for the American people! I am happy to be able to report that the convention of the Metal Trades Department this week adopted a program which will effectively prevent strikes and work stoppages over jurisdictional disputes among our affiliated unions.

Our Department comprises fifteen national and international unions with 1,750,000 members engaged in all forms of metal work and manufacturing. Inevitably, disputes arise from time to time over which particular members shall have the right to perform certain types of work. Technological advances in industry and the adoption of new manufacturing methods precipitate these disputes for the most part.

Now, in the past, jurisdictional disputes have resulted only too often in strikes. Skilled craftsmen have realized that such strikes were unnecessary and that they constituted a troublesome inconvenience to both industry and the public.

Therefore, the delegates to our convention determined to solve this acute problem. A committee was appointed to recommend ways and means. It brought forth a plan which was so constructive and so clear-cut in its provisions that the delegates unanimously approved it.

I won't attempt to burden you with a detailed description of this new machinery, but I will mention briefly its operation. First, it does not attempt to adjudicate jurisdictional disputes nor to invade in any way the authority of the affiliated unions to make their own decisions in these matters. Second, it provides that the unions involved in any dispute attempt to iron out their differences, first at the local level and then on a national basis, there shall be no work stoppages.

The effect of this great forward step will be to stabilize industrial production and provide a constant labor force for a continuous flow of output. It will remove a major cause for all but the most minor and temporary interruptions of strikes in the metal trades field—strikes which have no economic justification.

If this were all our convention accomplished, we would have reason to be gratified. But our organization also authorized an integrated organizing drive far more far-reaching previously attempted. In this drive our separate unions will be bonded together in the chief immediate need, we urge that efforts be concentrated at the outset on the organization of multiple-unit plants and mass industries. Such projects will require fewer sites and utilize the services of mechanics familiar with small home construction, thus broadening the supply of available manpower.

At the same time, large-scale suburban developments should be encouraged. It is made possible by the use of prefabrication on the site basis. A large amount of prefabrication can be done at the site of the job and savings in transportation costs of materials can be effected.

These methods will bring about the nearest thing to mass production of new homes that it is possible to achieve in the construction industry. Of course, they do not promise a lot of talk about "prefabricated houses" for everybody, but these will never take the place of conventional homes as far as the great majority of the American people are concerned because they are a distinctly inferior substitute.

The Building and Construction Trades Department also calls upon the Government to protect millions of veterans and other citizens now seeking homes from being exploited. Standards should be established to assure good quality materials and workmanship and every effort should be made to bring decent homes within the reach of average home buyers. Let me emphasize right here that the exorbitant cost of homes today is not due primarily to increases in wages, but to a number of inflationary factors, chiefly real estate speculation.

Our unions are making every effort to secure an adequate supply of skilled craftsmen for our program. The major organizations are consulting new apprentices at the rate of a thousand a week, chiefly from the ranks of ex-servicemen. While housing is the acute need of the moment, it should not be forgotten that there is a large backlog of demand for new industrial construction as well as necessary public works to be filled. The Building and Construction Trades Department calls upon the Government to authorize such projects now, in order to provide a steady flow of employment and to forestall disastrous effects of the increasing supply of materials and labor will permit.

### ANOTHER GREEN BAY GROUP AFFILIATES WITH UAW-AFL

Green Bay, Wis.—Employes of the Auto Parts Company of this city have become the newest unit to come into the United Automobile Workers of America-AFL.

### FUTURE FOOD PROSPECTS GOOD

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Department of Agriculture claims that despite food-supply prospects 1947 are as good as 1946 and estimates that the per capita consumption is 15 percent higher than before the war.

## *Green Says AFL Will Never Join Groups Ruled by Dictators*

Chicago.—Substandard wages and inflationary prices must be overcome and the key to this is full production, President Truman declared in a special message to the 66th convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Citing the "decisive part" which is labor's role in "this great moment in history," Mr. Truman said:

"There are those who doubt labor's motives and question labor's aims. Now, as always, the answer to that challenge must come from within the ranks of labor. I am confident that the delegates to this great convention will be eager to reply."

Mr. Truman's message was received by the convention shortly before AFL President William Green served emphatic notice on labor groups throughout the world that the AFL will continue to refuse participation in the world federation of trade unions because that organization embraces unions operated and dominated by totalitarian governments.

Other highlights of the current session included:

1. Stern warning by Joseph A. Padway, AFL general counsel, that anti-labor forces are waging increasingly vigorous campaign to wear down labor's rights to strike and bargain effectively, and workers must be constantly on the alert to counter these moves.

2. Announcement by George L. Googe, director of the AFL campaign to enroll 1,000,000 more southern members, of enormous gains already recorded for workers in every southern State. These include increased wages, improved working conditions, shorter hours and extensive membership expansion.

3. A stirring tribute by Secretary of War Patterson to American labor for its great contribution to the winning of the war, a record which he declared he could never forget so long as he lives.

4. Declaration by General Carl Spaatz, commanding general of the army air forces, that the unbroken flow of weapons and supplies from American workers won the war and saved the cause of democracy.

5. Charges by John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, at a banquet of the federation, that high communist officials have attempted to seize control of American labor and had even come to Chicago to observe the AFL convention further this purpose.

Replying to an address by Thomas O'Brien, Member of Parliament and general secretary of the British National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employes, who had appealed for AFL support of the T.U.C., Mr. Green declared:

"We want our fraternal delegates to go back to Great Britain free from any doubt; whatsoever of the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward this world federation of trade unions. Our federation is entirely in accord with the objectives of an international labor movement and from the very beginning has played a most important part in the development of the program of the International Labor Organization.

"We object to affiliation with this new world federation of trade unions because we are committed to the maintenance and establishment of freedom, liberty and democracy. We believe only in free democracy always formed by the workers, financed by the workers, controlled by the workers, officered by the workers and administered by the workers themselves.

"We are opposed to trade unions formed by a government, financed by a government, dominated by a government and controlled by a government. Because the new world federation of trade unions is not composed exclusively of free democratic unions, we refuse to become a part of that movement. We are not willing to jeopardize our freedom, liberty and democracy by associating our 7,100,000 members with a movement that runs the risk of having something voted upon us that originated in some country controlled by a dictator."

### WELFARE, RETIREMENT FUND OF UMW NEARS SIX MILLION

Washington, D. C.—Coal Mines Administrator N. H. Collisson has announced that the total payroll, up to date into the welfare and retirement fund of the United Mine Workers (AFL) amounts to $5,782,416.67. Payments are made monthly to the fund custodian, Rear Admiral James D. Doyle and under the terms of the Lewis-Krug bituminous wage agreement, coal operators are required to pay into the fund 5 cents on each ton of coal mined for use or for sale.